

# Virginia Department of Labor & Industry

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## MISSION STATEMENT

To make Virginia a better place to work by promoting safe and healthful workplaces and best employment practices and to provide employers an opportunity to train a skilled workforce through a proven, cost-effective system of registered apprenticeship.

## BACKGROUND

DOLI provides a broad range of programs to employers and their workers. DOLI has several operational divisions and offices serving the public - the Office of Cooperative Programs, Apprenticeship, Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety, Occupational Safety and Health Compliance, and State Labor Law Compliance. Ultimately, DOLI's programs impact a business' bottom line by helping to cut costs, increase productivity and improve quality of workplaces and products.

## Apprenticeship

DOLI helps employers expand their skilled workforce through a proven, cost-effective system of apprenticeship. This statewide program trains employees in a wide range of skills and knowledge areas. We help employers develop training programs and recruit qualified applicants. Employers provide on the job training and participants spend 4-6 hours per week in related classroom instruction.

## Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety

This inspection and certification program plays a critical role in promoting safety for all Virginians. Industrial boilers and pressure vessels are used in many large and small establishments including hospitals, small offices and large factories. We oversee regular inspections of boilers and pressure vessels in workplaces, apartments and establishments open to the public under the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety Act. Our oversight of installation, operation and repair of these vessels and certification of both the vessels and the inspectors, assures the safe operation of these powerful systems.

## State Labor Law Compliance

The Virginia Labor and Employment Law program works with employers to ensure Virginians' right to work, their right to receive pay that is due, and other important rights including a minimum wage and an appropriate day of rest. Through our child labor programs, we help ensure that young people have the opportunity to work in jobs that do not endanger them or interfere with their education. Working whenever possible through mediation, we seek to help businesses and employees resolve disputes and return to work.

## Occupational Safety and Health Compliance

The Virginia Occupational Safety and Health (VOSH) compliance program effectively carries out regulations governing all employers in the Commonwealth. Virginia's safety and health laws regulate all public and private sector commercial and industrial establishments, construction, logging, demolition and excavation. VOSH also issues permits for lead and asbestos abatement projects and administers the laws affecting emission of these pollutants. Through worksite inspections, compliance assistance and by responding to employee complaints of unsafe conditions, we ensure safer workplaces for Virginians. In the process, we help companies develop their own safety and health programs. These programs reduce risk exposure, workers' compensation and health insurance costs and improve quality through process changes that eliminate accident-related downtime.

## Cooperative Programs

The Office of Cooperative Programs provides communication service for the Agency and consists of the following programs:

### Consultation Services

To help employers better understand and voluntarily comply with the VOSH Standards, DOLI provides free On-Site Consultation services without issuing citation and penalties. This program helps employers identify and correct potential safety and health hazards through an agreement between the host employer and consultation services. Assistance in developing an effective safety and health program for the employer is also provided. Priority is given to high hazard workplaces with 250 or fewer employees.

### Research and Analysis

The Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, conducted in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), U.S. Department of Labor, produces estimated injury and illness incidents and rates for Virginia. The Survey is a statistically valid sampling of incidents reported by Virginia employers from the OSHA Form 200 and is published annually in December following the collection year.

### Voluntary Protection Program

The Virginia Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) is designed to recognize and promote exceptional safety and health management programs. In VPP, management, labor and VOSH establish cooperative relationships at a general industry or public sector workplaces that have implemented a strong programs. VOSH verifies that programs meet VPP criteria, publicly recognizes these workplaces and removes them from the routine inspection lists.